

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1016

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 11, 2011

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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## AN ACT

To measure the progress of relief, recovery, reconstruction,  
and development efforts in Haiti following the earth-  
quake of January 12, 2010, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Assessing Progress in  
3 Haiti Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5       Congress finds the following:

6           (1) On January 12, 2010, an earthquake meas-  
7       uring 7.0 on the Richter magnitude scale struck the  
8       country of Haiti.

9           (2) According to the United States Geological  
10       Survey (USGS)—

11           (A) the earthquake epicenter was located  
12       approximately 15 miles southwest of Port-au-  
13       Prince, the capital of Haiti; and

14           (B) the earthquake was followed by 59  
15       aftershocks of magnitude 4.5 or greater, the  
16       most severe measuring 6.0.

17           (3) According to the Government of Haiti, more  
18       than 316,000 people died as a result of the earth-  
19       quake, including 103 citizens of the United States  
20       and more than 100 United Nations personnel.

21           (4) According to the United Nations and the  
22       International Organization for Migration—

23           (A) an estimated 3,000,000 people were di-  
24       rectly affected by the disaster, nearly one-third  
25       of the country’s population; and

1 (B) more than 2,100,000 people were dis-  
2 placed from their homes to settlements.

3 (5) Casualty numbers and infrastructure dam-  
4 age, including to roads, ports, hospitals, and residen-  
5 tial dwellings, place the earthquake as the worst  
6 cataclysm to hit Haiti in over two centuries and,  
7 proportionally, one of the world's worst natural dis-  
8 asters in modern times.

9 (6) The Post Disaster Needs Assessment  
10 (PDNA) conducted by the Government of Haiti, the  
11 United Nations, the World Bank, the Inter-Amer-  
12 ican Development Bank, and other experts estimates  
13 that damage and economic losses totaled  
14 \$7,804,000,000, approximately 120 percent of Hai-  
15 ti's gross domestic product in 2009.

16 (7) Haiti is the poorest, least developed country  
17 in the Western Hemisphere with, prior to the earth-  
18 quake—

19 (A) more than 70 percent of Haitians liv-  
20 ing on less than \$2 per day; and

21 (B) a ranking of 149 out of 182 countries  
22 on the United Nations Human Development  
23 Index.

1           (8) House Resolution 1021, which was passed  
2           on January 21, 2010, on a vote of 411 to 1 ex-  
3           pressed—

4                   (A) the House of Representatives’ “deepest  
5           condolences and sympathy for the horrific loss  
6           of life” caused by the earthquake; and

7                   (B) bipartisan support for Haiti’s recovery  
8           and reconstruction.

9           (9) The initial emergency response of the men  
10          and women of the United States Government, led by  
11          the United States Agency for International Develop-  
12          ment and United States Southern Command, was  
13          swift and resolute.

14          (10) United States urban search and rescue  
15          (USAR) teams were immediately activated after the  
16          earthquake and deployed from Fairfax County, Vir-  
17          ginia, Los Angeles County, California, Miami-Dade,  
18          Florida, the City of Miami, Florida, and Virginia  
19          Beach, Virginia, to assist the United States Agency  
20          for International Development (USAID) Disaster  
21          Assistance Response Team (DART), and New York  
22          City’s first responders asked the Office of U.S. For-  
23          eign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) to activate a New  
24          York City urban search and rescue shortly there-  
25          after.

1           (11) A month after the earthquake, the House  
2           of Representatives unanimously passed House Reso-  
3           lution 1059 which expressed gratitude to these  
4           USAR units, and highlighted that the 511 United  
5           States rescue workers comprised roughly one-third  
6           of the entire international USAR effort in Haiti, and  
7           more than 130 people were rescued from under the  
8           rubble in Haiti by these units.

9           (12) Individuals, businesses, and philanthropic  
10          organizations across the United States and through-  
11          out the international community responded in sup-  
12          port of Haiti and its populace during this crisis,  
13          sometimes in innovative ways such as fundraising  
14          through text messaging.

15          (13) The Haitian diaspora in the United States,  
16          which was integral to emergency relief efforts—

17                 (A) has annually contributed significant  
18                 monetary support to Haiti through remittances;  
19                 and

20                 (B) continues to seek opportunities to  
21                 partner with the United States Agency for  
22                 International Development and other agencies  
23                 to substantively contribute to the reconstruction  
24                 of Haiti.

1           (14) Significant challenges still remain in Haiti  
2           as it works to recover and rebuild.

3           (15) According to the International Organiza-  
4           tion for Migration, approximately 680,000 people re-  
5           main in spontaneous and organized camps in Haiti.

6           (16) According to numerous nongovernmental  
7           organizations and United States contractors, the  
8           pace of reconstruction has lagged significantly be-  
9           hind the original emergency relief phase.

10          (17) The widespread irregularities that oc-  
11          curred in the elections held in Haiti on November  
12          28, 2010, led to outbursts of violence which under-  
13          mined the recovery efforts.

14          (18) On October 21, 2010, an outbreak of chol-  
15          era was detected in the Lower Artibonite region.

16          (19) Initial efforts to contain the epidemic were  
17          disrupted by Hurricane Tomás and resulting wide-  
18          spread flooding, which led to the spreading and en-  
19          trenchment of the disease throughout the country.

20          (20) According to the Haitian Ministry of Pub-  
21          lic Health and Population, as of March 28, 2011—

22                 (A) approximately 4,766 people have died  
23                 from cholera; and

24                 (B) approximately 270,991 have been in-  
25                 fected from the disease.

1           (21) According to the Pan American Health  
2           Organization and the Centers for Disease Control  
3           and Prevention, cholera could spread to as many as  
4           400,000 people within the first year of the epidemic,  
5           potentially causing 7,600 deaths at the current case  
6           fatality rate.

7           (22) The United States has provided more than  
8           \$62,523,017 worth of assistance to combat the chol-  
9           era epidemic, including by assisting with stockpiling  
10          health commodities, equipping cholera treatments  
11          centers, providing public information, and improving  
12          water and sanitation systems.

13          (23) The efforts to combat the cholera epidemic  
14          have helped to drive the mortality rate from cholera  
15          down from nearly 7 percent to 1.7 percent of all  
16          contracted cases as of February 25, 2011.

17          (24) Throughout the series of crises, the people  
18          of Haiti continue to demonstrate unwavering resil-  
19          ience, dignity, and courage.

20          (25) On March 20, 2011, presidential and par-  
21          liamentary elections were held in Haiti without  
22          major disruptions or problems.

23          (26) At the international donors conference  
24          “Towards a New Future for Haiti” held on March

1        31, 2010, 59 donors pledged over \$5,000,000,000 to  
2        support Haiti.

3            (27) The United Nations Office of the Special  
4        Envoy for Haiti estimates that nearly  
5        \$1,900,000,000 has been disbursed, with an addi-  
6        tional amount of approximately \$2,000,000,000  
7        committed.

8            (28) Haiti will need the support of the inter-  
9        national community in order to confront the ongoing  
10       cholera epidemic and to promote reconstruction and  
11       development.

12    **SEC. 3. REPORT.**

13        (a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than six months  
14       after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President,  
15       in consultation with the heads of all relevant agencies, in-  
16       cluding the Department of State, the United States Agen-  
17       cy for International Development, the Department of De-  
18       fense, the Department of Health and Human Services,  
19       and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shall  
20       transmit to Congress a report on the status of post-earth-  
21       quake humanitarian, reconstruction, and development ef-  
22       forts in Haiti, including efforts to prevent the spread of  
23       cholera and treat persons infected with the disease.



1 (b) CONTENTS.—The report required by subsection  
2 (a) shall include a description, analysis, and evaluation of  
3 the—

4 (1) overall progress of relief, recovery, and re-  
5 construction in Haiti, including—

6 (A) programs and projects of the United  
7 States Government;

8 (B) programs and projects to protect vul-  
9 nerable populations, such as internally displaced  
10 persons, children, women and girls, and persons  
11 with disabilities; and

12 (C) projects to improve water, sanitation,  
13 and health, and plans for improvements in  
14 these areas in the long-term;

15 (2) extent to which United States and inter-  
16 national efforts are in line with the priorities of the  
17 Government of Haiti and are actively engaging and  
18 working through Haitian ministries and local au-  
19 thorities;

20 (3) coordination among United States Govern-  
21 ment agencies, and coordination between the United  
22 States Government and United Nations agencies,  
23 international financial institutions, and other bilat-  
24 eral donors;

1           (4) mechanisms for communicating the progress  
2       of recovery and reconstruction efforts to Haitian  
3       citizens, as well as recommendations on how these  
4       can be improved;

5           (5) mechanisms through which Haitian civil so-  
6       ciety, including vulnerable populations, is actively  
7       participating in all major stages of recovery and re-  
8       construction efforts, and recommendations on how  
9       these can be improved;

10          (6) mechanisms through which the Haitian di-  
11       aspora is involved in recovery and reconstruction ef-  
12       forts; and

13          (7) suitability of Haiti to receive aliens who are  
14       removed, excluded, or deported from the United  
15       States pursuant to United States law, and steps  
16       Haiti is taking to strengthen its capacity in this re-  
17       gard.

18       (c) USE OF PREVIOUSLY APPROPRIATED FUNDS.—  
19       Funding for the report required under subsection (a) shall

1 derive from existing discretionary funds of the depart-  
2 ments and agencies specified in such subsection.

Passed the House of Representatives May 10, 2011.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,  
*Clerk.*